

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6419

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PINR, PDIP, SG

SUBJECT: SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR TO GABON BABACAR DIALLO

REF LIBREVILLE 1543

1. BY DECREE OF JULY 9, 1976, BABACAR DIALLO WAS NAMED SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR TO GABON. REFTEL INDICATED HE PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS AUGUST 3. DIALLO HAS HAD CAREER AS CIVIL ADMINISTRATOR, SERVING FOR PAST FIVE YEARS AS PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SICAP (SOCIETE IMMOBILIERE DU CAP-VERT), PUBLIC HOUSING CORPORATION IN WHICH GOS HOLDS MAJORITY INTEREST. PRIOR TO ASSUMING THAT POSITION, HE WAS SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT IN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

2. COMMERCIALLY-PUBLISHED BIOGRAPHIC REGISTER INDICATES DIALLO BORN AUGUST 16 1924 AT THIES, SENEGAL, AND ATTENDED INSTITUTE DES HAUTES ETUDES DE L'OUTRE MER IN FRANCE.

3. AS HEAD OF SICAP, DIALLO'S PRIMARY CONTACT WITH USG CONCERNED AID GUARANTY FOR \$5 MILLION LOAN FROM US FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FOR "PATTE D'OIE" HOUSING PROJECT IN DAKAR ON WHICH CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN 1968 BY US FIRM OF BUILDERS INTERNATIONAL (BI). PROJECT, ORIGINALLY

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PLANNED TO ACCOMMODATE 800 FAMILIES, WAS SEEN AS

"PRINCIPLE EXAMPLE OF PRIVATE AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN SENEGAL" AND SHOWCASE FOR NEW US CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. SICAP MANAGED HOUSING SALES AND MAINTENANCE. UNFORTUNATELY, RISING CONSTRUCTION COSTS, DESIGN CHANGES, HIGH VACANCY RATES, SICAP'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR PROJECT, AND OTHER PROBLEMS LED TO CUT BACK IN NUMBER OF HOUSES BUILT, BANKRUPTCY OF BI IN 1973, INTERMITTENT FAILURE BY GOS TO MAINTAIN MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO AID, ARREST BY GOS OF ONE OF AMERICAN PARTNERS IN BI, ARBITRATION "SUIT" FILED BY BI AGAINST AID IN JANUARY 1976 AND SUIT BROUGHT BY GOS AGAINST BI IN FEBRUARY 1976.

4. THIS EXPERIENCE HAS UNDOUBTEDLY HAD IMPACT ON DIALLO'S ATTITUDES TOWARD US. REGIONAL HOUSING OFFICER VOTAW AT EMBASSY ABIDJAN, WHO DEALT DIRECTLY WITH SICAP ON THIS MATTER, MAY WISH TO CONTRIBUTE PERSONAL COMMENTS ON DIALLO. DEPARTMENT'S BIO FILES MAY ALSO CONTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH HAS NOT BEEN PRESERVED IN EMBASSY RECORDS.
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Message Attributes

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